

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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PARIS: PLS. PASS BORDEAUX AND MARSEILLES

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TAGS: PINT, SP  
SUBJECT: REGIONAL UPDATE: CATALONIA AND THE BASQUE PROVINCES

REF: A) MADRID 6849; B) MADRID 6748; C) MADRID 7111;  
D) MADRID A-140; E) BILBAO A-12

SUMMARY: PROGRESS WITH BOTH THE CATALAN AND BASQUE PROVISIONAL  
STATUTES OF AUTONOMY HAS RESUSCITATED RUMORS THAT ONE OR  
MORE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BASQUE/CATALAN PARLIAMENTARY  
MINORITY MIGHT BE BROUGHT INTO THE GOVT. SUCH SPECULATION  
IS PREMATURE AT BEST. END SUMMARY.

1. FINAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE CATALAN PROVISIONAL AUTONOMY  
STATUTE HAS BEEN DELETED (REF A), AS THE RESULT OF MANY  
CATALAN PARLIAMENTARIANS' REFUSAL TO ACCEPT A STATUTE WHICH  
DID NOT PROVIDE FOR A REGIONAL PARLIAMENT, TOGETHER WITH  
THE RELATED CONCERN THAT THE PROVISIONAL GENERALITAT WOULD  
NOT REFLECT THE JUNE 15 ELECTION RETURNS IN CATALUNYA AND  
WOULD SOMEHOW BE MORE RESPONSIVE TO THE BLANDISHMENTS OF  
MADRID THAN THE WILL OF THE CATALAN PEOPLE. (THE  
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LEAKED DRAFT DECREE LAWS--REF B--PROVIDED FOR ONLY  
TWO OF THE TRADITIONAL THREE CONSTITUENT PARTS OF THE  
GENERALITAT--THE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL--  
AND MADE NO MENTION OF THE PARLIAMENT.)

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, HOWEVER, THIS PROBLEM OF  
THE SO-CALLED "DECAFFEINATED" GENERALITAT APPEARS NOW

TO HAVE BEEN OVERCOME, WITH THE REPORTED AGREEMENT OF BOTH GENERALITAT PRESIDENT-IN-EXILE TARRADELLAS AND THE MADRID GOVT. TO ACCEPT THE INCLUSION OF A LEGISLATIVE BODY GENERALLY REFLECTING THE JUNE 15 RESULTS. VISIBLE MOVEMENT ON THE STATUTE INCLUDES THE TWO-HOUR MEETING SEPT. 26 OF CATALAN SOCIALIST (PSC-C/PSOE) LEADERS REVENTOS AND TRIGINER WITH GOVT. NEGOTIATOR SANCHEZ TERAN, FROM WHICH THE SOCIALISTS--WHO HAVE CONSISTENTLY BEEN THE MOST RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT THE DECREE LAWS-- APPARENTLY EMERGED SATISFIED. TARRADELLAS MEETS TODAY IN FRANCE WITH LEADERS OF THE MAJOR CATALAN PARTIES, AND AN ANTICIPATED FIRST "TRILATERAL" SESSION, INVOLVING TARRADELLAS, SANCHEZ TERAN, AND THE CATALAN PARTY LEADERS, REPORTEDLY WILL TAKE PLACE SEPT. 28. ALTHOUGH THE "DECISIVE" WEEKS HAVE BEEN TOO NUMEROUS TO COUNT, THE CATALAN STATUTE DOES INDEED APPEAR TO BE NEAR RESOLUTION.

3. MEANWHILE, THE BASIS HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN REGIONS MINISTER CALVERO AND AN BASQUE NEGOTIATING COMMISSION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A "PRE-AUTONOMY" STATUTE FOR THE BASQUE PROVINCES AS WELL. AFTER THE BASQUE NATIONALIST PARTY (PNV) AND PSOE REACHED AGREEMENT ON A DRAFT STATUTE SEPT. 17 AND SECURED ITS APPROVAL BY THE BASQUE ASSEMBLY OF PARLIAMENTARIANS SEPT. 19 (REFS C-E), CLAVERO MET SEPT. 23 IN VITORIA (ALVIA) FOR INITIAL FAMILIARIZA-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TION DISCUSSIONS WITH AN 11-MEMBER BASQUE COMMISSION DOMINATED BY THE PSOE, PNV, AND UCD. CLAVERO AND HIS INTERLOCUTORS EMERGED FROM THE MEETING SMILING AND EXPRESSING HOPES THAT THE STATUTE COULD BE AGREED UPON IN FAIRLY SHORT ORDER. "FORMAL" DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN CLAVERO AND THE BASQUE COMMISSION WILL BEGIN OCT. 1. IN MADRID.

4. (WE NOTE THAT AMONG THE KNOTTY ISSUES TO BE RESOLVED IN THE NEGOTIATION IS THE VERY DEFINITION OF "EUKADI". UCD ELEMENTS IN NAVARRE AND, TO A LESSER EXTENT, ALAVA CONTINUE TO HOLD--WITH SOME JUSTIFICATION--THAT THEIR PROVINCES POSSESS THEIR OWN SEPARATE AUTONOMIST TRADITIONS AND SHOULD BE ABLE TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH MADRID, RATHER THAN BEING SUBSUMED UNDER A PSOE/ PNV-DOMINATED FOUR-PROVINCE EUKADI. PARTIES REPRESENTING A MAJORITY OF THE VOTERS IN THE FOUR PROVINCES, HOWEVER, LED BY THE PSOE AND PNV, ARE ON RECORD AS SUPPORTING A CONFEDERATED EUKADI WHICH WOULD EMBRACE ALAVA AND NAVARRE AS WELL AS VIZCAYA AND GUIPUZCOA.)

5. FOLLOZ NG ON THE VITORIA MEETING, THE BASQUE COM-

MISSION BRIEFED THE FULL PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY SEPT. 26 IN SAN SEBASTIAN, THEN CROSSED THE BORDER TO BAYONNE TO REVIEW THE STATE OF NEGOTIATING PLAY WITH BASQUE PRESIDENT-IN-EXILE LEIZAOLA. AFTER THE MEETING, A COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED STATING THE BASQUE GOVT-IN-EXILE'S SUPPORT FOR THE NEGOTIATING GROUP AND CALLING FOR A PEACEFUL RALLY IN BILBAO ON OCT. 7, 41ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORMATION OF THE BASQUE GOVT. LEIZAOLA, UNLIKE TARRADELLAS, HAS REFUSED TO BECOME A PROTAGONIST IN THE STATUTE NEGOTIATIONS, MAKING IT CLEAR ALL ALONG THAT HE VIEWED THAT AS PROPERLY THE ROLE OF THE REPRESENTATIVES ELECTED JUNE 15.)

6. PROGRESS ON BOTH THE CATALAN AND BASQUE FRONTS HAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ONCE AGAIN RAISED IN THE PRESS SPECULATION THAT ONE OR MORE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BASQUE/CATALAN MINORITY IN THE CORTES MIGHT BE ELEVATED TO THE GOVT IN A MOVE WHICH COULD GIVE SUAREZ A GOVERNING MAJORITY IN THE CONGRESS OF DEPUTIES (THE BASQUE/CATALAN MINORITY IS MADE UP OF 21 MEMBERS--13 CATALANS AND 8 BASQUES). WHILE THE CO-OPTATION OF REGIONAL CENTRISTS HAS BEEN VERY MUCH AN AIM OF SUAREZ' POLICY VIS-A-VIS THE REGIONS, HOWEVER, THIS SPECULATION IS PREMATURE AT BEST (AND REPORTEDLY WAS DENIED LAST NIGHT BY A LEADING MEMBER OF PUJOL'S CATALAN CDC). AT A MINIMUM, WE BELIEVE NEITHER THE CATALANS NOR THE BASQUES WOULD CONSIDER ENTERING THE GOVT. UNTIL THE AUTONOMY AND AMNESTY ISSUES ARE RESOLVED TO THEIR SATISFACTION. EATON

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